

He also has a package for a charitable tax credit for nonitemizers, for example, something that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE) pushed here for years, that I have had legislation as well, to try to expand the charitable credit that was in the bill of the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) and Jim Talent that we have argued, that former Senator Dan Coats advocated in the Senate and worked with, because a tax credit that would put additional dollars into the charitable organizations that are having such an impact at the local level would be a major breakthrough.

What we have seen out of our new President is not just a talk that related to the campaign to try to win but a comprehensive blueprint of how to actually accomplish this in office. That is not something that gains necessarily a lot of votes. Not a lot of lobbyists come to our office saying, hey, we will financially support you if you just back this faith-based initiative thing.

It comes with a lot of controversy because a lot of people, rightly to some degree, fear that this could be over-extended, and they do not understand the full nature of this and the court limitations on it, and they are worried about religious liberty. But President Bush has stood up and said, this is too important, there are too many kids and families hurting in this country to continue to ignore the most effective way to reach many of these children who need our help.

I cannot say enough in praise of this initiative. I am excited about the Office of Faith-Based Initiatives. I am looking forward to the legislation that we will be bringing to the floor to work with this and to work with this office. This is a great morning in America today for many people who really need the help not only of the government but of their neighbors and the communities and the churches and others who can do so much to give them a chance in this wonderful free country.

#### ON THE GLOBAL GAG RULE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my extreme disappointment that the global gag rule has been imposed on U.S. assistance to international family planning programs once again. On his second full day in office, President Bush reinstated this Reagan-era restriction, gagging foreign private organizations from using their own funds to educate women and families about their full range of reproductive choices.

For decades, U.S. aid to family planning organizations overseas has helped these groups provide invaluable services for women around the world. Our Nation has a history of helping women educate themselves and to providing

access to needed reproductive health services. I assure my colleagues that piling on restrictions to censor what foreign organizations can and cannot do with their own private funds is nothing to be proud of.

Each year in the developing world, nearly 600,000 women die from pregnancy-related complications. That is why our support for a full range of reproductive health services, including contraception, health workshops, counseling and maternal care becomes more important every day.

By imposing the gag rule, President Bush is taking away a woman's right to make decisions, decisions that affect her reproductive health, her emotional and physical security, and her family's future. President Bush is imposing his own values on foreign groups, and he is limiting these groups to providing only the services that get his seal of approval.

The truth is that family planning programs reduce the need for abortion. They promote safe motherhood and they increase child survival. Denying women birth control and counseling creates more unwanted pregnancies, more abortions, and more suffering. It is also a fact that more than 75,000 women die each year due to unsafe abortion. Without access to safe and affordable services, abortion will be less safe and will put more women's lives in danger.

I know that the women of this House are more committed than ever to protect the rights of women around the world. We have a responsibility to work to reduce the rate of unwanted pregnancy and improve the lives of women and children at home and abroad.

Implementing a global gag rule is not the way to meet this goal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. DAVIS of California addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### HONESTY AND GLOBAL GAG RULE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, by reinstituting the global gag rule as one of his first actions in office, President Bush quickly revealed how uncompassionate his conservatism will be. The gag rule will take money away from the world's poorest women and girls. This is not the action of a moderate.

The gag rule prevents doctors from giving the best medical advice to patients, it stops free speech, and it limits the effectiveness of family planning organizations. So this gag rule is not

about preventing taxpayer dollars from being used for abortions, no matter what the President's spokesman says.

This is a significant point. Language is important. By using language that leads people to believe that the ban will stop taxpayer money from being used for abortions, the Bush administration gave a positive spin to a negative action. We need to call them on it. That is why many of us are on the floor tonight.

This is not about taxpayer money being used for abortion. It could not be. No American dollars have been used for abortions since 1973. That is the law of this country. The gag rule is about preventing organizations from giving good medical advice and care to patients. It coerces family planning clinics, doctors and organizations into sacrificing their right to counsel patients or even participate in democratic debates in order to receive U.S. funding for voluntary family planning services. It will stop much needed family planning funding from going to the organizations that provide the services that prevent abortions. It forces providers to make a terrible choice, give up desperately needed funding for family planning services or sacrifice their rights and responsibilities. Either way, women lose and the number of abortions, particularly illegal abortions, will rise.

The gag rule would be unconstitutional here in the United States, and it is unconscionable that among the first acts of the Bush administration was to reinstate it and impose it on the world's poorest women and girls. During the campaign, President Bush said that the United States should not appear arrogant in its foreign policy. Imposing limits on speech that would be unconstitutional here in the United States is the height of arrogance in foreign policy.

That is not to say that all the news is bad. I was pleased to hear that President Bush has committed to retaining the fiscal year 2001 funding levels for international family planning. That was a very welcome statement. I hope that when President Bush takes another look at the facts, he will recognize that his actions actually encourage the procedure he is trying to reduce.

We know that family planning reduces the need for abortions. We know that it saves lives. The gag rule reduces the effectiveness of family planning organizations and should be eliminated. I urge the President to revoke the gag rule. I applaud my many colleagues that have joined me in doing so.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. PELOSI addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]